THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

[Translation]

AIR Station in Rajasthan

2642. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the AIR broadcast centres opened in Rajasthan so far; and

(b) the number of such centres proposed to be opened during the next Five Year Plan, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Presently, seventeen AIR Broadcasting stations/relay centres are under operation in Rajasthan. These are located at Jaipur, Ajmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Suratgarh, Kota, Alwar, Nagpur, Banswara, Chittorgarh, Barmer, Sawai Madhopur, Churu, Jhalawar, Jaisalmer and Mount Abu.

(b) During IX Plan, there is a proposal to set up Broadcasting stations at Dungarpur and Sriganga Nagar in Rajasthan subject to the approval by the competent authority and availability of adequate financial resources.

[English]

Construction of Latrines under Rural Sanitation Programme

2643. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the year during which the cost of construction per latrine was worked out last and the total cost so worked out;

(b) the total cost per latrine worked out during 1997;

(c) the reasons for not revising the cost in view of the increased cost of construction; and

(d) the time bound programme for implementing the revised cost of latrines under Rural Sanitation Programme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) In 1991-92 the unit cost of construction of a latrine under Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme was worked out Rs. 2500/-

(b) to (d) Revised cost has not been worked out in 1997. The States/UTs have been permitted to meet the difference between the actual cost and Rs. 2500 from out of their State Sector Minimum Needs Programme.

Panel on Power Plants

2644. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned "panel on power plants update on the cards" appearing in the *Financial Express* dated 15.7.1997;

(b) if so, details of the proposal finalised/under consideration of the Government; and

(c) the number of Power Plants in the country requiring renovation/update and estimates of cost involved and strategies finalised to take up the programme to improve power generation through efficient operations of the existing old projects-targets set physical and financial under the scheme State-wise for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has proposed to provide funds at concessional rate of interest through PFC for accelerating the generation programme which would also include R&M activities. Under the programme. PFC would lend money to the State Electricity Boards at interest rate which is proposed to be 4% lower than the normal rate of interest. A sum of Rs. 200 crores has been proposed for meeting the interest subsidy for the year 1997-98. A committee including representatives of CEA. BHEL, Planning Commission and PFC would monitor the progress of R & M programme.

(c) In order to improve the performance of existing old thermal power plants a programme for R&M was taken up in 1990-91 by the Government of India for implementation during the 8th Plan. Under this programme, 44 thermal power stations comprising 198 units aggregating to a total capcity of 20869.435 MW at an estimated cost of Rs. 2383 crores are covered. Similarly. 55 hydro schemes with an aggregate capacity of 9653 MW were identified which required renovation modernisation and uprating. The total estimated cost of these schemes is Rs. 1493 crores.

A Statement showing power stations targetted to be completed during the year 1997-98, State-wise is attached.